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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

| Box No. I Basis of this opinion | PCT/IL05/00254 |
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| the international application in the language in which it was filed a translation of the international application into, which is the language international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b)). | |
| With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the intinvention, this opinion has been established on the basis of: | ternational application and necessary to the claimed |
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| filed together with the international application in electronic form. furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search. | |
| In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listi or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriational comments: | ing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed at or additional copies is identical to that in the riste, were furnished. |
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| SA/237(Box No. I) (April 2005) | |

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No. PCT/IL05/00254

| Box No. V Reasoned statement under R applicability; citations and ex | cplanations supporting such | to novelty, inventive step or industrial statement |
|--|--|--|
| Novelty (N) | Claims <u>3-8,10-20</u> Claims <u>1,2,</u> 9 | YES |
| Inventive step (IS) | Claims <u>3-8 and 10-20</u> Claims <u>1.2.9</u> | NOYES |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Claims <u>1-20</u> Claims <u>NONE</u> | NOYES |
| 2. Citations and explanations: | | NO |

Claims 1 and 2 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Mangum (5,397,326). Mangum discloses, at least in figure 10, an implement for manipulating a knotted suture, where the implement includes an elongated shaft (402) and a distal end of the elongated shaft having an end face formed with a recess (between 412 and 422), the distal end being formed with an open slot (440) wide range of suture sizes and materials.

Claims I and 9 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Andreas et al. (5,797,929). Andreas et al. disclose, at least in figures 1, 3, and 4, an implement for manipulating a knotted suture, where the implement includes an elongated shaft (12) and a distal end (22) of the elongated shaft having an end face formed with a recess (40), the distal end being formed with an open slot (42) starting from a location spaced from the end face and leading to the recess, where the distal end is of increased outer diameter.

Claims 3-8 and 10-20 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(3), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest an implement for manipulating a knotted suture, where the implement includes, inter alia, an elongated shaft and a distal end of the elongated shaft having an end face formed with a recess, the distal end being formed with an open slot starting from a location spaced from the end face and leading to the recess, where the open slot is formed with a first section leading from the recess towards the elongated shaft, and a second section leading from a juncture with the first section towards the distal end of the elongated shaft but terminating short of the end face, and where a tubular outter encloses the elongated shaft.

Claims 1-20 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4), and thus an implement for manipulating a knotted suture has industrial applicability because the subject matter claimed can be made or used in industry.

Form PCT/ISA/237 (Box No. V) (April 2005)